

Information on

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (UST)

An underground storage tank (UST) is defined as any one or combination of tanks (including underground pipes connected thereto) that is used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances, and the volume of which (including the volume of underground pipes connected thereto) is 10 percent or more beneath the surface of the ground. This fact sheet lists some of the requirements for USTs.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE REPORT OF EXCESS?

The holding agency should provide a statement about the presence of USTs on the property, and if any USTs are present, a completed EPA Form 7530-1 (Rev. 8-94) can be used to supply this information.

The following information about USTs currently or formerly located on the property should be included in the statement:

- Location
- Capacity
- Compliance status
- Number of tanks
- In use
- Past or current substances stored
- Date upgraded, if applicable
- Date out of service, if applicable

The holding agency should also certify that the USTs have been maintained and currently are in compliance with the requirements codified at 40 CFR Part 280 or applicable state regulations, as of the date of transfer.

Note: The requirements of Federal UST regulations do not apply to tanks used for storing heating oil for use on the premises where it is stored and USTs that are smaller than 110 gallons.

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY?

Federal agencies are required to follow federal, state, and local requirements regarding USTs.



AM I IN COMPLIANCE?

For USTs and piping installed before December 22, 1988, owners and operators must:

- Ensure tanks are registered with EPA and the state
- Comply with spill, overfill, corrosion, and leak detection requirements or properly close or replace the UST no later than December 22, 1998

For tanks installed after December 1988, the owner or operator must:

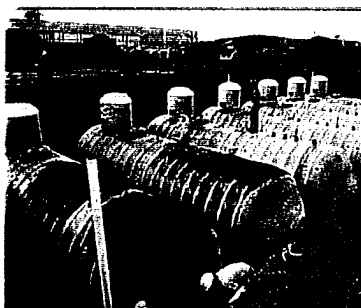
- Provide at the time of installation, leak detection and spill, overfill, and corrosion protection
- Certify that the tank and piping are installed properly according to industry codes

WILL THE DEADLINE BE EXTENDED?

EPA has stated that they will not extend the deadline and state, local, or tribal governments do not have the authority to extend the deadline.

More information on requirements for USTs is contained in 40 CFR Part 280 and 40 CFR Part 281. Codification of individual state and territorial programs can be found in 40 CFR Parts 282.50 - 282.105.

Information is also available from EPA at <http://www.epa.gov/OUST>.



NEW OPTIONS FOR 1998

If the UST was installed before December 22, 1998, the holding agency is required to:

- Upgrade the UST by adding spill, overfill, and corrosion protection
- Replace it with a new UST that has spill, overfill, and corrosion protection
- Properly close the old UST

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Upgrading requires the addition of spill, overfill, and corrosion protection to existing USTs to meet requirements or removing or closing an existing UST and installing a new UST that meets all applicable requirements.

Spill protection requires the installation of a catchment basin and adherence to the industry standards for correct filling practices.

Overfill protection can be achieved by the installation of either an automatic shutoff device, an overfill alarm, or a ball float valve.

Corrosion protection for steel USTs can be accomplished by installing an interior lining, cathodic protection, or internal lining combined with cathodic protection.